



Proposed SB-925
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
PUBLIC HEARING: 3/7/2017

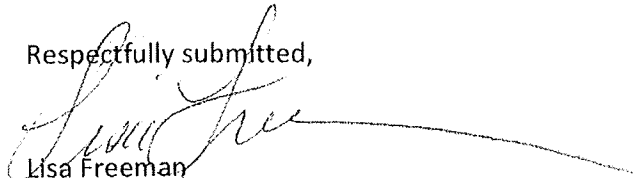
AN ACT CONCERNING THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND VALUE-BASED INSURANCE DESIGN.

Drug costs are skyrocketing and Connecticut residents will soon be unable to afford their medications and their health care. This out-of-control cost of care affects much more than the pocketbooks of those taking the particular drug. These increasing prices cause premiums and cost sharing to rise. The part of this that doesn't make sense is that the real cost of many drugs and other health care services often have little to no relationship to the billed amounts. Where else in sales is there a market such as this? Where else is there so little transparency to the consumer? Even the policy makers often have little idea what is behind the pricing of many components in health care.

We support this proposed legislation. We are happy to see a piece of legislation that sets requirements for transparency, demands accountability for price increases above a specified amount and supports medications that offer a higher value of care (they not only have reasonable prices, but impact and improve a particular population health concern).

We support the provision in Section 9 establishing a task force to study the value based pricing of prescription drugs. This is a newer concept in medicine and the added scrutiny will assure that the goals outlined are achieved. However, we are quite disappointed that, once again, there is no consumer/patient advocate to represent Connecticut's consumers on this panel. In fact, we would like to request TWO consumer/patient advocates. In a world where patients have long been omitted from healthcare policy conversations yet have always been **the most important** stakeholder, we feel that having only a single representative to this committee presents an unfair pressure to one consumer/patient advocate who may be appointed in isolation. We respectfully request that one each of the speaker of the House of Representatives, who has expertise in health care and one of the president pro tempore of the Senate, who has expertise in consumer protection be a consumer/patient stakeholder having each of those qualifications by virtue of their stakeholder role in healthcare on a daily basis.

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Freeman
Executive Director